

REMARKS

Claim 2 has been canceled. Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the feature of claim 2. Claim 10 has been amended to its original form. New system claims 18 and 19, and new computer readable medium claims 20 and 21 have been added. Base claims 18 and 20 recite the components and/or steps performed by encoded instructions which are performed in the process of amended claim 1. As such, these claims should be considered along with claim 1 and its dependent claims. Figure 1 shows the multimodal browser presenting a form to a user; Figure 6 shows the timer mechanism for timing out if a response is not timely provided (see also 310 in Figure 3); and Figure 4 shows the audio command recognition components.

The application now includes claims 1 and 3-21.

The undersigned requests reconsideration and allowance of the claims in view of the above amendment, the previous response and the following comments.

Claims 1-4 and 6-16 have been rejected as being obvious over U.S. Patent 6,400,806 to Uppaluru. Claim 5 has been rejected as being obvious over a combination of Uppaluru in view of U.S. Patent 5,101,375 to Golhor. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 requires a computer implemented method of visually and audibly navigating fields within a form presented on a multi-modal browser, comprising the steps of:

providing to the multi-modal browser a form having one or more fields requiring user supplied information;

prompting by the multi-modal browser a user to fill in a form field by verbal or tactile interaction, or a combination of verbal and tactile interaction;

moving to another form field requiring user provided input either after a current form field has been filled in by the user or the user selects by verbal or tactile interaction another form field; and

exiting the form after the user has supplied input for all the required fields.

As an example, Figure 1 of the application shows a form whereby a user is prompted to provide his name and a particular problem. As explained on page 6

of the application, to navigate the form 100 by using verbal commands, the multi-modal browser reads the audio elements (lines 10 and 16 [see code on page 5 of application]) of the fields to be filled in, and types what the user says.

Uppaluru, by contrast, is not focused on navigating and completing forms. The Uppaluru system does not provide prompting to the user, and does not move to different fields based on user input or completion of a current form. Rather, Uppaluru is a system which allows navigation of the web with oral (audible) input. As discussed in detail in the previous response, Uppaluru requires a user specific profile to be completed, and only allows access to certain pages. As explained in Uppaluru, navigation is achieved by extending the HTML anchor tag with the attributes of tone and label, and by using commands such as “next”, “previous”, “reload”, “home”, “bookmarks”, “help”, “stop”, “start”, “play”, “exit”, etc. (see column 8, lines 37-56). Uppaluru explains that HVML forms use the form tag to enable user input similar to HTML (see paragraph bridging columns 8 and 9), and the HVML browser pauses at each voice-input statement in a HVML form until the specified input is supplied or input is terminated, before processing the remaining form (see column 8, lines 65-68). This functionality is not the same as, and is unrelated to, requiring a user to complete specific fields within a form.

The Examiner has referenced column 10, lines 34 to column 11, line 14 for the use of web forms. A user’s creation of a calendar, and subsequent retrieval of calendar information is provided as an example. However, it is clear from these passages that the user is not required to complete certain required fields on a form. Rather, the user is only able to retrieve whatever it was that he previously entered or requested. At no point does Uppaluru require or suggest that the browser stays within the form (continuing to prompt) until the form is completed, as such, claim 1, as amended, as well as the dependent claims are not obvious over the Uppaluru reference.

With particular regard to claims 12-16, it appears that the Examiner has neglected to consider the navigational aspects required in the claims. Normal browsers, while they do contain a sequence of “things” to be displayed (making it a queue of sorts), do not provide these features, and Uppaluru does not provide these features. The concept of adding audible features to the output are valuable

in situations where a user of a multi modal browser (audio/tactile) has had their visual attention taken from the browser...the addition of specific sounds can be used to draw their attention to a specific or "important" part of the output.

Should the Examiner find the application to be other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the local telephone number listed below to discuss any other changes deemed necessary in a telephonic or personal interview.

A provisional petition is hereby made for any extension of time necessary for the continued pendency during the life of this application. Please charge any fees for such provisional petition and any deficiencies in fees and credit any overpayment of fees to Attorney's Deposit Account No. 09-0457 (IBM Endicott).

Respectfully submitted,



Michael E. Whitham
Reg. No. 32,635

Whitham, Curtis & Christofferson, P.C.
11491 Sunset Hills Road, Suite 340
Reston, VA 20190

Tel. (703) 787-9400
Fax. (703) 787-7557

Customer No.: 30743